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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

No. 2475



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS**INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS**

- Soviet Official on Increased Sports Ties With Africa:
Report of Interview
(MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 29 Jul 81) 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- Briefs
Cancellation of MCLN Press Conference 3

CHAD

- Briefs
Reported Combat 4

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

- President Reported To Have Engaged in Irregular Financial Activities
(Thierry Maliniak; LE MONDE, 29 Jul 81) 5

MADAGASCAR

- UDECMA Congress Held at Antananarivo
(MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 29 Jul, 5 Aug 81) 6
- 400 Militants Attend Opening Session
End of UDECMA-KMTP Congress
- FISEMARE Labor Meeting Held in Antananarivo
(MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 3 Aug 81) 9
- Belgian Aid To Be Increased; Technical, Commercial Ties To Remain
(MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 20 Jul 81) 11

Vietnamese Teachers Assigned to University (MADAGASCAR-MATIN, 30 Jul, 5 Aug 81)	13
--	----

Contract for Six Teachers Signed
Five Vietnamese Arrive

Briefs	
Human Rights Appeal	14

MOZAMBIQUE

European Parliamentarians' Frank Interview on Namibia, U.S. (Martin Bangeman, Ulrich Irmer Interview; NOTICIAS, 11 Aug 81)	15
---	----

British Press Accused of Obfuscation (Carlos Cardoso; NOTICIAS, 11 Aug 81)	19
---	----

Delays in Seed Distribution Jeopardize Agricultural Goals (NOTICIAS, 12 Aug 81)	21
--	----

Fruits, Vegetables Sold at Set Prices for Present (Rogerio Sitoie, Jose Pinto de Sa; NOTICIAS, 11 Aug 81) ...	22
--	----

Briefs	
Natural Gas	23
Hungarian Cooperatives Delegation	23
Portuguese Industrial Cooperation	23
Ship Accident Affects Cashew Field	23

NIGER

Kountche's Role in Cameroonian-Nigerian Frontier Incident Hailed (Issaka Garba; LE SAHEL, 24 Jul 81)	25
---	----

Briefs	
Report on Crop Situation	26

REUNION

Lack of Political Change Deplored (TEMOIGNAGES, 1-2 Aug 81)	27
--	----

PRC Communique on Need for Change Published (TEMOIGNAGES, 21 Jul 81)	30
---	----

Exile of Father Reynolds Michel Ended (TEMOIGNAGES, 18-19 Jul 81)	32
--	----

Better Utilization of French Aid Urged (Editorial; TEMOIGNAGES, 15 Jul 81)	35
---	----

Need To Learn Creole Linked With Cultural Identity (Alain Armand; TEMOIGNAGES, 24 Jul 81)	37
--	----

Inflationary Price Spiral Protested, Wage Increase Requested (TEMOIGNAGES, various dates)	39
--	----

Text of CGTR Telegram to DOM-TOM
Text of CGTR Statement
Communist General Councilors
Effects of Expected Price Increase

Unity, Vigilance Urged as Sugar Harvest Resumes (TEMOIGNAGES, 1-2 Aug 81)	43
--	----

SENEGAL

Details in 1981-1982 Budget of Ministry of Armed Forces (AFRIQUE DEFENSE, Jul 81)	45
--	----

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

SOVIET OFFICIAL ON INCREASED SPORTS TIES WITH AFRICA: REPORT OF INTERVIEW

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 29 Jul 81 p 5

[Text] The APN [Novosti Press Agency] correspondent has interviewed Vladimir Avilov, department head of the state committee for physical education and sports in the USSR council of ministers.

Question: What has been the effect of the 1980 Olympic Games on the improvement of relations between the USSR athletic committee and the athletic organizations in African countries?

Answer: One can say without fear of exaggeration that the Moscow Games were an important stage in the development of the Olympic movement and, naturally, they exercised great influence on the development of international relations in the field of sports. Recently, as part of a delegation from the USSR athletic committee, I had the opportunity to visit Madagascar and the Seychelles. During our talks with the leaders of the athletic organizations of those countries, these leaders noted that during the Moscow Games the representatives of African sports were convinced anew of the advantages of the Soviet school of sports. This is why, as soon as the games were concluded, protocols and agreements on athletic cooperation between the USSR athletic committee and the athletic organizations of Angola, Zambia, the Republic of Guinea, and several other countries were signed.

During the year which has gone by since the Olympic Games, Soviet athletes have visited about 20 African countries and everywhere with great success. It will suffice to mention the trip of the women's basketball team of Kazakhstan to Zambia, that of the "Zenit" and "Fakel" soccer teams respectively to Guinea-Bissau and Botswana.

Question: These contacts are doubtless of great importance for improving African athletic skill.

Answer: Certainly. In fact, the exchange of athletic delegations involves not only participation in competitive games but also the organization of joint training sessions, exhibitions, and seminars. Our Malian friends gratefully remember the recent visit of the Soviet basketball team to their country, when our athletes gave them substantial help in preparing the Malian team for the African championship competition.

The joint training classes also contribute to improving the athletic skill of our African friends. At the present time, in the Soviet Union, athletes from Angola and Algeria are preparing for the African Games, the Guinean swimmers have already had their preparatory training, and we are awaiting the arrival of the Angolan women's handball team and the training of boxers from Gabon. Also, the USSR's large athletic schools each year accept students and scholarship students working on these, from the African countries.

Acceding to the desires of our friends, we have established at the Moscow Central Physical Education Institute some 6-month accelerated training courses for coaches in various athletic disciplines who have come from developing countries.

Question: What can you say about the activity of Soviet coaches in Africa?

Answer: A great number of Soviet trainers are working in many African countries on a long-term basis. A number of Soviet experts are also sent to African countries on short-term assignments. They give practical and theoretical courses to African athletes, they take part in the preparation of national teams for important competitions. The leaders of the athletic organizations in Madagascar, Mali, Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, and other countries greatly value the work of Soviet trainers. Mr Ramchurn, the minister of youth and sports on the island of Mauritius, has noted for example that their activity makes an important contribution to the development of sports on the African continent, and to the strengthening of international ties in the field of sports.

9516

CSO: 4719/270

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

CANCELLATION OF MCLN PRESS CONFERENCE--A press conference scheduled to be held by the Central African Movement of National Liberation (MCLN) in Paris on Tuesday, 28 July, was cancelled at the request of the French authorities. The MCLN, headed by Iddi Lala, has claimed responsibility for the bombing of 14 July in Bangui. The French authorities mentioned that while France was a country of asylum, the recipients of that right to asylum are under the "obligation to keep a reserved attitude." The invitation to attend the MCLN press conference carried the heading "the 14 July kickoff" using the same words as a communique in which Iddi Lala described the bombing as the first act carried out by his movement for the withdrawal of the French troops. [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 30 Jul 81 p4] 8796

CSO: 4719/236

CHAD

BRIEFS

REPORTED COMBAT--The Sudanese news agency SUNA announced on 29 July that fighting had taken place in central Chad between supporters of the Chadian president, Goukouni Oueddei, and supporters of Acyl Ahmat, minister of foreign affairs and head of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR). [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Jul 81 p 3] 8796

CSO: 4719/236

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

PRESIDENT REPORTED TO HAVE ENGAGED IN IRREGULAR FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Jul 81 p 4

[Article by Thierry Maliniak]

[Text] Madrid--The attempted coup which the authorities of Equatorial Guinea claim to have foiled in April (LE MONDE issue of 30 April) is said to be really connected with the desire of the president, Col Teodoro Obiang Nguema, to assume control over the major import-export company in the country, according to reports published in Madrid, on Monday 27 July, by the newspaper DIARIO 16.

The government accused one of the company's major shareholders, Andres Moises Mba (who from his exile led a group opposed to former President Macias Nguema) of being behind the coup. Mba, who is in exile in Madrid, confirmed the truth of the facts reported by the newspaper.

His account of what happened claims that he was encouraged by the authorities of Equatorial Guinea to make investments in the country after the dictator Macias Nguema was ousted. This is why, in February 1980, he formed an import-export company called EXIGENCA in partnership with his compatriot Justino Mba Nsue and a Spanish businessman, Jose Rovira. President Obiang is reported to have demanded a 20 percent partnership in the company right from the beginning and before he would give orders for the Ministry of Finance to grant various import licenses for the company.

EXIGENCA went through a rapid growth and then, always according to Mba, Col Obiang asked for an increase of capital in favor of his 13-year old son, Teodorin. A month later, Rovira was deprived of his shares for alleged "irregularities" in the import of foreign currency. These shares were allocated to Col Obiang's wife.

Mba told us that through his son, his wife and his cousin, Col Obiang controls 50 percent of the shares of EXIGENCA while the other 50 percent are held by Moises Mba and Justino Mba Nsue, both of whom have been barred from returning to Equatorial Guinea. According to Mba, some relatives of the president and some members of the Supreme Military Council have imported many goods through EXIGENCA without making the required payments and have accumulated debts totaling 32 million pesetas (close to 2 million francs). Mba says that all the company's assets were recently confiscated by Col Obiang.

8796

CSO: 4719/236

UDECMA CONGRESS HELD AT ANTANANARIVO

400 Militants Attend Opening Session

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 29 Jul 81 pp 1, 3

[Text] The 9th national congress of UDECMA/KMTP [Malagasy Christian Democratic Union-Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], meeting in Antananarivo on the general subject of production and ideology, opened yesterday at midday at the Tranompokonolona of Isotry.

Four hundred militants from 300 sections of the revolutionary organization (OR) are participating in this congress, which will end Saturday. At the opening ceremony, several OR's in the Front (VITM, AKFM, VSM) [unknown-Congress Party for Malagasy Independence-MONIMA Socialist Group] were represented.

UDECMA's national president, CSR [Supreme Revolutionary Council] member Solo Norbert Andriamorasata, after the customary welcome and expressions of appreciation to the congress participants and guests, laid stress first of all on the necessity, at the present time, to strengthen collaboration within the FNDR [National Front for the Defense of the Revolution].

He followed up by proposing that the revolutionary government provide subsidies to the OR's (or political parties) in the Front that are working for the triumph of the revolution. And the same should be done (if not to greater extent), he said, for the associations and other organizations with social purposes.

He also suggested that the external support offered by friendly political parties should not be provided only to one OR, but should benefit all the members of the Front.

Finally, the national UDECMA president posed a question, to which the delegates should respond during these 4 days of work: should UDECMA still participate in the next elections? That question is on the table and deserves a concrete answer, he said, in view of the position this OR currently holds. In effect, he explained, it seems that people do not feel the utility of certain OR's, including UDECMA, except when it is necessary to resolve grave national problems. It should be stressed that the representatives of VITM, AKFM, and VSM took the floor in turn to speak of national unity, of which the Front should be the living example, and which should manifest itself in improved cooperation between the various OR's.

End of UDECMA-KMTP Congress

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 5 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] As we announced in our 29 July edition, last week UDECMA-KMTP held its 9th national congress in Antananarivo.

The congress enabled the 400 participants from the 300 sections of the revolutionary organization to resolve internal party problems as well as to take a position with respect to major current international issues.

With respect to internal party questions, the delegates had to examine, among other things, the overall national situation in the current stage of our revolution. The militants decided, among other things, to broaden their activities in the agricultural and stock-raising domains, particularly by means of production cooperatives.

Decisions were also made on other questions, especially in connection with work methods and collaboration within the Front, overall national policy, and reform of the press charter.

With respect to the upcoming elections, the 9th national UDECMA congress decided that before making any decision, the revolutionary organization should lay down several conditions to all the member parties of the Front, conditions which should be spelled out by the next congress, which meets in January 1982.

Also discussed was the building of an independent Malagasy economy, profitable methods of production, and equitable distribution of products. We note that this was also the occasion for the militants to elect the members of the central committee. Returned to office were Solo Norbert Andriamorasata, the national president; Razafintsoa Manaova-Alphonse, national vice president; Rapetera Desire and Razanarison Lucie, national secretaries; Soazafinantoandro Mathilde and Rasoamiarana Gilbert, national treasurers; and Razafindramboa Solo Rene and Randriahavana William, national advisers.

Now we will examine the achievements of the revolutionary vondrona UDECMA-KMPT headed by Solo Norbert Andriamorasata, who was once again elevated to the leadership of the party at the conclusion of its 9th national congress which just ended last weekend in Antananarivo. Numerous resolutions dealing with UDECMA-KMPT's future activities were passed. They only confirm, as a whole, the leading ideas which the latter has defended over recent years and which, with only a few differences, are also those of the other vondronas joined within the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution.

With regard to the internal affairs of the vondrona UDECMA-KMPT, it became apparent what role is to be played by the party in achieving the final victory of the Malagasy socialist revolution. Its supporters are unanimously agreed on the necessity of expanding agricultural and stock-raising activities, the main sectors of economic activity in Madagascar, cost what it may. They made certain firm decisions as to the cooperation that should be customary by now among the various revolutionary vondronas affiliated in the Front for the success of the common task: the victory of socialism. With respect to the next elections, UDECMA-KMPT intends to lay down several preliminary conditions to the members of its party and then to the Front. They have not yet been made public. They will not be elaborated until the next

national party council which will be held in January. The national UDECMA-KMPT congress also considers it to be an urgent necessity to provide citizens with ideological training, which it judges is still "inadequate."

The members of the new UDECMA-KMPT national bureau are: Solo Norbert Andriamorasata (president), Manaova Alphonse Razafintsoa (vice president); Desire Rapetera (secretary); Mathilde Soazafinantoandro (treasurer); Gilberte Rasoamiarana (deputy treasurer); Solo Rene Razafindramboa, and William Randriahavana (advisers).

9516

CSO: 4719/271

FISEMARE LABOR MEETING HELD IN ANTANANARIVO

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 3 Aug 81 p 2

[Text] The labor militants from 160 Antananarivo locals of FISEMARE [Union of Revolutionary Malagasy Workers] have held a meeting at the national headquarters of the AKFM-KDRSM [Congress Party for Malagasy Independence-Democratic Committee to Support the Malagasy Socialist Revolution] group at Andravoahangy, under the chairmanship of FISEMARE's national president and secretary general.

Mr Paul Rabemananjara, secretary general, explained to the audience the current international crisis, particularly the role of multinational companies which are established most often in the United States and which are going as far as provoking the fall of governments. "We, like many other Third World countries, are suffering from the malady of capitalism," he continued, and "only the determination of the working class and of progressive forces inspired by proletarian internationalism can guarantee success in the building of socialism."

The various maneuvers to discredit the revolutionary government were also raised and unmasked at the meeting. The national president, Ranoharison Eusebe, spoke about solidarity among progressive countries and unions; FISEMARE recently sent delegates to the constitutional convention of the Agricultural Federation of the African Continent, which was held at Ibadan in Nigeria, as well as to the meeting on information held in Arusha (Tanzania).

"In addition to the crisis of imperialism, we must face the forces of reaction, and each individual is responsible to thwart attempts to take us back to a bygone era," he stressed.

And The SRMM

Mr Telanosy, national president of the SRMM-Vonjy Iray T, Mivaky labor organization and Mrs Julienne, a member of the political bureau, held a lively ideological meeting Saturday with the SRMM unionists from Antsirabe in the chamber of commerce of that locality. The deputy secretary general of the local section pointed out the importance of such a seminar in the current context; such a seminar, he said, energizes the militants. The representative from the Antsirabe political bureau, Mr Rakotondrabary, said for his part that only ideologically mature militants are capable of doing the utmost for the revolution.

As for Mr Telanosy, he recounted the history of the group and explained its institutional structures; to militate in a revolutionary union is a correct position to take to support the triumph of the revolution. Various theories, including the role of the labor organization in national industrial development; the labor organization and the workers; and the labor organization and the new state institutions, were discussed at this seminar.

9516

CSO: 4719/271

MADAGASCAR

BELGIAN AID TO BE INCREASED; TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL TIES TO REMAIN

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 20 Jul 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] After coming to Antananarivo to give a reception honoring the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Belgian independence, His Excellency Victor Allard, the Belgian Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar [RDM], returned at mid-day yesterday to his place of residence, Maputo (Mozambique). During his brief visit to the capital, the Belgian diplomat had talks with several government officials. But these were only routine contacts dealing with bilateral relations.

In that connection, Ambassador Allard told us yesterday of the continuing progress being made at this time in cooperation between his country and the RDM. After a listless period, relations between the two countries began to expand rapidly about 3 years ago. The projects envisaged at that time are beginning to come to fruition over time. The Belgian Government is also assisting--via a government-to-government loan totalling close to 525 million Malagasy francs--in the creation of a lime factory and the industrial cultivation of soya. Now that the funds to be devoted to those two projects have been found, it is to be hoped that the work itself will be started very soon.

Other Belgian-Malagasy projects are still under study: exploitation of the Sakoa coal-bed, the gray sandstone of Bemolanga, construction of a soluble coffee factory at Mananjary, a brewery at Toamasina, a cement-works at Mahajanga, etc. Despite Belgium's determination to come to Madagascar's assistance, the Belgian Ambassador to the RDM said categorically yesterday: "Like you, we are also hit by the present international crisis, and our means at this point are very limited." Ambassador Allard nevertheless declared that he was open to any negotiations. This is the case, for example, with respect to a number of projects for which the presence in Brussels of Malagasy Minister Rarivoson (economy and trade) was necessary. The latter returned to Antananarivo yesterday without touching on the subject. It would seem, nonetheless, that the minister appeared to be rather satisfied with the preliminary talks. Other talks will take place on a continuing basis. We will have to wait for the results. One thing is certain: the realization of these new projects will further solidify relations between the RDM and Belgium.

Beyond the financial relations we mentioned above, the details of which were published in the Saturday edition of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, Madagascar maintains technical and commercial relations with Belgium. On the technical side is the current construction of the ZeRen-Toamasina chemical fertilizer plant; on the commercial side is the presence of Belgian equipment in the big Malagasy industrial enterprises.

For example one finds this at the SOTEMA [Majunga Textile Company] plant at Mahajanga where the existing and very sophisticated equipment is mostly West German and Belgian.

Unfortunately, trade relations between the two countries suffer a certain imbalance. The importation of products "made in Madagascar" is still at an embryonic stage.

The political will to cooperate thus exists between Belgium and the RDM. Will it be able to withstand the present ills of the international economic crisis? The future will tell us.

9516

CSO: 4719/272

MADAGASCAR

VIETNAMESE TEACHERS ASSIGNED TO UNIVERSITY

Contract For Six Teachers Signed

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 30 Jul 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] Six Vietnamese professors will soon be teaching in Madagascar. Their employment contract was signed Tuesday afternoon at the ministry of higher education and scientific research at Tsimbazaza by His Excellency Doan Van, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Madagascar and by Minister Rakoto Ignace.

Thus, less than a year after the signature of the economic, scientific, and cultural agreement between our two countries, Madagascar and Vietnam have signed a contract for the employment of professors. Minister Rakoto Ignace in his speech said that the signing is proof of our determination to give concrete form to the cooperation between our two countries, and also our determination to consolidate the ties of friendship and struggle against imperialism.

Five Vietnamese Arrive

Tananarive MADAGASCAR-MATIN in French 5 Aug 81 pp 1, 2

[Text] The five Vietnamese professors whose mission to Madagascar was defined last week in a protocol signed in Antananarivo have now safely arrived. Yesterday they were presented to Minister Ignace Rakoto (higher education and scientific research) by the cultural attache of the embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] in Antananarivo.

On that occasion, Rakoto welcomed the Vietnamese comrades on behalf of the revolutionary regime which expressed its pleasure at "thus commencing the cooperation between Vietnam and the RDM by means of higher education."

The Vietnamese cultural attache emphasized that, despite the current problems his country is facing in national reconstruction, it will always be "prepared," within the limits of its abilities, of course, "to come to the aid of a fraternal country such as Madagascar."

These professors will teach at the University of Madagascar. They are Nguyen Dang Cha (philosophy), Vu Duong Ninh and Dinh Xuan Lam (history), Nguyen Thua Hop and Nguyen Huu Duong (mathematics).

We mention again that the Malagasy Government will provide their salaries and lodging.

9516

CSO: 4719/272

MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL--An appeal by the International Human Rights Federation: While being "pleased" by the recent release of several Malagasy academics (LE MONDE of 28-29 June), the International Human Rights Federation (27, Rue Jean-Dolent, Paris 14th, Tel. 707-56-35) has expressed "the hope that no further harassment will follow their release." In a communique it also mentioned that the three Malagasy officers who have been detained since 1977 (LE MONDE of 10 June 1980) "have been deprived of indispensable rights of self-defense," and called on the Malagasy Government to "permit a judicial observer, given adequate notice, to attend their trial and verify that the rights of the defendant and the guarantees of independent and impartial justice are respected." [Text] [Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Aug 81 p 3] 9516

CSO: 4719/272

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRANK INTERVIEW ON NAMIBIA, U.S.

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 7

[Interview by Migueis Lopes Junior with Martin Bangeman and Ulrich Irmer, members of the European Parliament in Maputo, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] During your trip to Southern Africa, have you gathered sufficient data to have a good overview of the Namibian issue?

[Martin Bangeman] I must say that until now we have come across very convincing positions. We believe that if we can, all together--the Contact Group, South Africa, the United States, Namibia and SWAPO--achieve an internationally acceptable position, it should be implemented.

[Ulrich Irmer] I was pleasantly surprised by our contacts so far, by the frankness and openness with which we were received. In Angola, for example, and without our having broached the subject, Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge told us: "We understand that you Europeans fear our ties with the Cubans and the Soviets. You see Soviet influence all over Southern Africa. But this is a grievous mistake. We did not fight for independence for so many years, to turn around and have our country led by foreigners. Of course we have friendly ties with the USSR and Cuba: we owe them a great deal. But we are independent!" This was very important and helped me to understand that the liberation movements have their own potential, their own need to sail on, to be successful. In the face of this, it is absolutely ridiculous to maintain colonialism, under any kind of pretext.

[Question] Does the Savimbi problem in Angola have anything to do with the Namibia problem?

[Ulrich Irmer] Of course. As soon as the Namibia question is solved, there will no longer be a problem with UNITA in Angola. Angola will be left in peace.

[Question] Are you willing to exert pressure on the United States so that this country will recognize the People's Republic of Angola in light of these considerations?

[Ulrich Irmer] Yes.

[Question] Are you going to bring it up at the European Parliament?

[Ulrich Irmer] Yes.

[Question] What do you think of UN resolution 435 on Namibia?

[Ulrich Irmer] The one thing the Europeans desire is the rapid and immediate implementation of resolution 435. It is a compromise that does not satisfy everyone. Whites in Namibia are not happy with it, SWAPO is not quite satisfied either, but it is a compromise to which everyone must adhere, as long as it is an international solution which must be carried out.

[Martin Bangeman] Free elections must be organized and power must go to the party with the most votes. It is a very democratic principle, and this is why we had accepted the election results in Zimbabwe, even those who had perhaps wished for a different outcome.... This is what I have expressed in all my contacts so far. If, by any chance, the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance) should win the election in Namibia, one should accept it. We may or may not hope for it--as a matter of fact, it may be difficult to achieve, but if it happens, this is democracy and we must accept it.

[Question] Does this mean that, in general terms, you advocate for Namibia the same type of solution that was found for Zimbabwe?

[Ulrich Irmer] In general terms, yes. As for the legal basis, the two cases cannot be compared. Even knowing that European conditions cannot be blindly transferred to post-colonial Africa, I would like to see in Namibia a system in which various parties can compete. I am personally convinced that SWAPO will win the election. But I still would like to see a situation in which, shall we say, 10 years from now, any other party could win the election and the majority change.

[Question] How does the European Parliament, and especially the liberal group, view the regional SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference]?

[Ulrich Irmer] We believe that this is a very intelligent operation, both politically and economically, since this regional cooperation will tend to turn the countries participating in it less dependent on South Africa.

[Question] Do you think it is possible to increase EEC support to the SADCC, if all member countries are not signatories of the Lome Convention?

[Ulrich Irmer] I believe it would be difficult. This does not mean we do not wish to do it, but if we would grant special terms to Angola and Mozambique--which are not members--the Lome signatories would ask us why is it that they themselves do not enjoy these same terms.

[Question] Do you believe, then, that the People's Republic of Mozambique must join the Lome Convention?

[Ulrich Irmer] I do not think it is indispensable for Angola and Mozambique to join the Lome Convention. I only believe that this would make things easier. But you must note that neither I nor my president [of the liberal group] came to "sell Lome" to anyone. Actually, I stressed this in my talks with Joaquim Chissano. We are only interested in the conditions and the possibility for cooperation, because we would like to cooperate with everyone.

[Question] Then, do you think that it will be possible, for Mozambique, to be a member of both Lome and CEMA in the future?

[Ulrich Irmer] I would not exclude it. Why not? A principle of our cooperation is that we do not interfere with the political options of a given country. There are marxist-leninist countries with which we are associated in the Lome Convention. Europe and the EEC are in no position to interfere with the political option of any country in the world.

[Question] Can you comment on the fact that EEC cooperation with Africa, or even with the Lome Convention, is considered by some an instrument of neo-colonialist domination of European capitalism.

[Ulrich Irmer] We (the EEC) have made serious mistakes in this field, and everyone is aware of it. We have attempted to transfer our own ideas on the economy of many countries where conditions were very different. An example is food assistance. Our policy in this field was to consider Africa and other countries as purchasers of our surpluses. But the policy of food assistance must be to develop possibilities in such countries as need it in order to make them self-sufficient in terms of food. At present, we are reformulating our policy within the European Parliament.

[Question] But would it be possible to establish such disinterested assistance between countries with different economic systems?

[Ulrich Irmer] I am not an idealist in this respect. I do not believe in disinterested assistance. Personally, I doubt that the question of relations between North and South can be put in terms of assistance. Our relations with Africa are now on a very realistic basis, because we see very clearly that if the South experiences difficulties, we shall also be involved. Our destinies are interconnected, and it is not possible for Europe to pretend to be living in the island of the happy, the unconcerned, the rich, while the South is starving.

[Question] From your previous contacts with the Reagan administration, do you believe that it is possible for the United States to abandon its position on Namibia, so far based on "cold war" convictions?

[Ulrich Irmer] On an economic level, we are agreed that Europeans, up to a certain point, are dependent on Southern Africa--and I do not mean South Africa. However, strategy-wise, we also agree that South Africa, the Cape route, is very important. At any rate, it would be totally wrong to maintain the positions we had in this area through the help of apartheid. It is much more logical to accept the fact that there will be changes in South Africa. Such changes are simply going to take place, and no one can prevent them. That is why I believe that it is more clever to associate with those who wish to see these changes implemented. If Americans do not see this, we do, and we shall attempt, in all sincerity and loyalty, to influence them on their role in South Africa.

[Question] But don't you believe that there is already a very large gap between the position of the United States and yours on Namibia, on the basis of resolution 435?

[Ulrich Irmer] The Zimbabwean minister of foreign affairs also referred to this question in these terms, that Europe would have to choose between the United States

and Africa. I do not agree with this position. We do not have to choose. We wish to maintain our NATO alliance with the United States, of course, because we are dependent on this country. Simultaneously, however, we want to consolidate our relations with the African countries, because of all the ties uniting us, most of them through the Lome Convention.

[Question] Are you optimistic or pessimistic in regard to the possibility for the United States to modify its position in relation to South Africa and Namibia?

[Ulrich Irmer] I am optimistic, because the United States knows that it is not isolated from the world. That country knows that it is, up to a certain point, dependent on Europe just as much as Europe is dependent on America.

[Question] But whatever Reagan has done until now tends to prove that these considerations are not taken into account....

[Ulrich Irmer] I go back to my meeting with Paulo Jorge. He told me that the Reagan administration is like a pregnant woman. One must wait 9 months to find out if it is a boy or a girl.

[Martin Bangeman] Let us hope that the Reagan administration is not an elephant....

[Question] Yes.... But there are already some Reagan-inspired facts, such as the lifting of the Clark amendment on support to UNITA....

[Ulrich Irmer] Personally, I also believe that Reagan was not a good choice for the Americans. I can tell you a story in this respect that Americans were telling before the elections. A gunman brutally grabs a man in the street, points his gun at him and asks him threateningly: "Carter or Reagan?" So the man answers: "Well, if this is the alternative, go ahead, shoot...." This is how we in Europe looked at the question. Carter was a very weak president. Such a great nation, and it could not find a better alternative than Carter versus Reagan.... However, we accept the fact that they have a democratic system that allows them to choose a better president every four years. And of course, it is wrong to blame Reagan for all the deficiencies in American society, such as unemployment, for instance. This is not Reagan's doing, and we too, in Europe, have a lot of unemployment. Many, many people out of work....

CSO: 4728/103

BRITISH PRESS ACCUSED OF OBFUSCATION

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Carlos Cardoso: "Truth Reiterated"]

[Text] Last June, Rober Mugabe, prime minister of Zimbabwe, stated that it behooved the West to initiate the application of sanctions against the Pretoria regime, since Zimbabwe was unable to do it alone.

When we arrived in London during the last week in June, Mugabe's words had been shamelessly distorted in the British press: what the local public heard and read was that Zimbabwe did not want sanctions. From the simple reader to the member of Parliament, the truth was but the "truth of the press."

Moreover, during all of 1980 and until the attack against Matola in January 1981, the pundits of the British press had literally bombarded public opinion with one more "truth." According to them Mozambique had established a sort of clandestine and immoral peace with the Pretoria regime. In sum, FRELIMO was afraid of the South Africans, FRELIMO had "betrayed" the South African people. Even the most biting passages of Samora Machel's 14 January speech had been carefully stored away. Responsible supporters of the Southern Africa cause were beginning to believe such allegations.

But Armando Guebuza went to London and the scenario was immediately and abruptly destroyed.

It happened on the evening of 26 June, in a London theater filled to capacity by 500 persons eager to know the true Mozambican position. The meeting was presided over by Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC.

Aware of this entire scenario, in which Mozambique appeared timidly pallid vis-a-vis the natural "invincibility" of the apartheid regime, Guebuza went straight to the point: "We know what is being bandied about here, but Mozambique's position is clear.

It is obvious that sanctions against South Africa will hurt the people in this area, and mainly the South African people. But these people have already suffered. The South African people has been suffering for many a decade. The problem does not reside in suffering or not. The point is this: to suffer for a long time to come or to suffer a little more, but for a short time. We experienced this in Mozambique

when we applied sanctions against Rhodesia. Sanctions bring disadvantages in their wake, but if applied in common, they can contribute decisively toward breaking the enemy. That is why Mozambique supports the application of sanctions against Pretoria."

The applause was tremendous, frenetic, as if a great burden had been lifted from all those people's shoulders.

"And who must initiate the sanctions? It is with the West that South Africa transacts more than 90 percent of its trade. Let the Western countries apply sanctions in common, and we in Southern Africa know what we must do."

More applause.

The problem is repeated with the same dose of hypocrisy as always. Some Western governments used to give FRELIMO medicines while giving the Portuguese army tanks and planes. Medicines helped the FRELIMO soldiers, who could thus fight longer. FRELIMO soldiers continued the fight, thus forcing the Portuguese generals to purchase more arms. This is the way in which these governments preserved the Portuguese market for their weapons.

The same governments today are providing medicines for the ANC and at the same time, are supplying South African armaments factories. And, with characteristic Christian paternalism, they say that if they stop feeding the apartheid's war machine, the South African people will lose jobs.

There is more. Since they cannot openly state that they support apartheid, they claim that it is the unfortunate people of Southern Africa who do not want sanctions.

Armando Guebuza's visit to Britain was quite useful in many respects: it served to clear up a number of questions preoccupying people in the greater anti-apartheid front.

More than a few months of half-truths in the international press will be needed to launch a campaign of confusion again.

I ask my readers to forgive the inelegance of this editorial outburst, but the subject demanded no less.

CSO: 4728/102

DELAYS IN SEED DISTRIBUTION JEOPARDIZE AGRICULTURAL GOALS

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 12 Aug 81 p 3

[Text] The lack of seed is threatening to seriously affect the goals set for agriculture, according to the reports presented during the meeting of the directors of state farms in the province of Maputo.

This meeting, which ended in Maputo yesterday, was chaired by Governor Jose Moiane. During the proceedings, the level of the implementation of the goals set for each agricultural unit in the province was analyzed.

Delays in the arrival of seed shipments to the production units, as well as the poor quality of the seeds, were unanimously blamed for the failure.

The importation and distribution of the seeds, of which the Boror firm is in charge, has been extremely deficient, threatening the success of the campaign in various provinces. This fundamental problem affecting our agriculture has been of great concern to peasants throughout the country.

During the meeting of the directors of state farms in Maputo, the delay in the arrival of the seed shipments was invoked as one of the reasons for the poor implementation of the goals in the production of potatoes, rice and corn.

State farms are presently involved in the potato harvest, as well as the transport of rice to hulling units.

During the meeting, it was also confirmed that the lack of packaging materials in the province of Maputo caused the deterioration of large quantities of citrus fruit for export, resulting in serious losses. Besides the loss of foreign exchange, this situation deeply affects the peasants, who see their products rot away.

Closing the meeting, Governor Jose Moiane stressed that state farms must set an example for the degree of organization and production in the entire country.

CSO: 4728/103

FRUITS, VEGETABLES SOLD AT SET PRICES FOR PRESENT

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 8

[Article by Rogerio Sitoie and Jose Pinto de Sa]

[Excerpts] The attempt to boycott the new prices for vegetables has failed, but it is necessary to set up permanent control mechanisms in their marketing.

Consumers protested vociferously, barring the way to speculators, who have been vanquished but not convinced.

Sales have become normal in the markets. The new prices are respected and consumers are happier. However, sellers continue to mutter.... At the first opportunity, they will again try to bite.

The rule of the game, for them, is to buy cheap and sell high, it is to defraud both producers and consumers while filling their own pockets. The prices of food items must encourage the producers and protect the consumers, but they should never enrich parasitical intermediaries.

Now that the boycott attempt has failed, the means for permanent control must be devised for the rigorous observance of the prices set.

To this end, a series of meetings was initiated yesterday between the GOAM (Department for the Organization of Supplies of Maputo), the Fruits and Vegetables Marketing Company and the executive council in charge of controlling markets.

One of the participants in these meetings disclosed that the sale of fruits and vegetables by private parties to market sellers will be subjected to close control. This kind of control has not existed until now. It is true that a department of the executive council exists, which is in charge of controlling product quality and price. However, this department has been totally inoperative.

Meanwhile, consumers are flooding the markets, where large quantities of tomatoes, lettuce, and other products are offered, without the need to stand in line.

CSO: 4728/103

BRIEFS

NATURAL GAS--Large projects for the exploitation of natural gas in Pande are under study, including the construction of a number of complexes for the production of ammoniumurethane and the processing of iron ore. Four foreign firms have already presented their proposals to carry out the initial research phase aimed at estimating natural gas and--eventually--oil reserves in the areas of Pande, Buzi and Temane. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 2]

HUNGARIAN COOPERATIVES DELEGATION--A delegation from the national council of Hungarian agricultural cooperatives arrived in Maputo on Sunday for a one-week visit. The delegation was greeted at Mavalane Airport by state secretary for the cashew industry, Gaspar D'zimba. The leader of the Hungarian delegation stated upon arrival that the purpose of the visit is to reinforce existing ties between the cooperative movements of both countries. It is expected that a number of agreements will be signed to reinforce cooperation and the exchange of experiences. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 2]

PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION--A total of 5 protocols were signed yesterday in Maputo with the Portuguese state firm QUIMIGAL, in relation to the renewed take-off of the production of oil, soap and pesticides in the country. The protocols are fundamentally aimed at technical assistance in this field, namely to the Boror Industrial (pesticides), the Cicomo, the Textil do Pungoe (textiles) and Socaju (cashews) firms, as well as to the Fasol, Saborel, Saboeira de Inhambane and Geralco state-managed enterprises. QUIMIGAL's program of technical assistance started in 1977 in the field of the textile and cashew industries. More than 120 Mozambican workers have attended technical specialization courses in Portugal since then. The present protocols are extending this cooperation to the fields of oil, soap and pesticides. To carry them out, QUIMIGAL will send to Mozambique approximately 20 technicians, besides the 25 who are already providing assistance. According to these protocols, about 50 Mozambican workers will be sent to Portugal for training. The protocols will only be implemented following their approval by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of Mozambique. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Aug 81 p 3]

SHIP ACCIDENT AFFECTS CASHEW FIELD--The entire cashew industrial sector will be affected because the cargo ship "Castle Glory" ran aground at the mouth of the Zambezi River a week ago. This accident will irretrievably affect the implementation of the second semester goals as set in the 1981 State Central Plan. The "Castle Glory," which is unlikely to be saved, was sailing to Maputo and Nacala, and later to Pemba. On its Nacala run, the ship was carrying, among other goods, 200 tons of

tinplate and one vehicle in its hold, now under water. The tinpalte was intended for the manufacture of packaging material for the entire cashew industry in the northern part of the country, notably the six state and private plants in the province of Nampula. After offloading the tinplate in Nacala, the "Castle Glory" was supposed to load 750 tons of cashews to supply the factories in the southern area of the country, whose present stocks are only sufficient for the next three months. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 12 Aug 81 p 1]

CSO: 4728/102

KOUNTCHE'S ROLE IN CAMEROONIAN-NIGERIAN FRONTIER INCIDENT HAILED

Niamey LE SAHEL in French 24 Jul 81 p 1

[Article by Issaka Garba: "African Wisdom"]

[Text] African wisdom and dialogue have triumphed again in the frontier incident between Cameroon and Nigeria.

When President Ahidjo announced that he was prepared to compensate the families of the five Nigerian soldiers killed during the unfortunate incident and when President Shagari issued an official invitation to President Ahidjo to go to Nigeria, not only did they thwart those who expected relations between the two countries to deteriorate but they also proved that African unity is not an empty word.

Africa has chosen to settle its disputes by peaceful means rather than by war. Nigeria and Cameroon have just proved it and set an example. We are delighted with the outcome of the various contacts.

Our head of state, Col Seyni Kountche, played a major role in bringing these two neighboring and fraternal countries, which are Nigeria and Cameroon, to settle rapidly and by peaceful means a frontier incident which would not have helped matters for either country.

President Kountche's recent trips to Illori (Nigeria) and to Yaounde, while tension was growing between the two countries, succeeded in cooling down tempers raised by the incident. From that moment onwards, tension dropped.

The friendly and fraternal relations between these two countries have not been jeopardized and African unity has not been shaken.

Meanwhile, our subregion will not be weakened by this brief misunderstanding because--and this is a very important point--we cannot remain indifferent in the face of a conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria, two neighboring countries, two friendly countries with whom we have good and manifold relations. The visit that President Ahidjo will probably make to Nigeria will further harmonize and strengthen relations between Cameroon and Nigeria. A happy ending which we sincerely hail.

8796

CSO: 4719/231

BRIEFS

REPORT ON CROP SITUATION--The winter season, the late arrival of which had many people worried in Niger, is now here for good. It has been raining all over the country as proved by the daily rainfall reports given on the radio. The crop situation is carefully followed by administrative and tribal authorities and by regional and central authorities. This is why committees are meeting every 2 weeks all over the country to take stock of what is happening to the young shoots of millet, sorghum, manioc and peanuts. On 30 June, the report on the crop situation noted that rainfall (from 15 to 30 June) was slightly higher than in 1980 and more or less the same as in 1979 for the whole of the country. As for the total amount of rainfall recorded, it was either the same (in Niamey, Agadez) or clearly below the amount of rain that fell in 1980 and 1979. The report states that millet plants are throwing out suckers in most departments of Niamey and Dosso, in the south and central areas of Tahoua, Maradi, and Zinder and that they have produced tufts in the southern region of the department of Dosso. During that same period (of 15 to 30 June), the millet has sprouted in the north and east of the country. But in many areas, the drought and winds have forced farmers to sow the fields again. The young plants of millet and sorghum were attacked by locust. The areas more severely affected were the departments of Niamey, Dosso and Maradi. In Dakoro and Goure, rats have damaged the crops. Campaigns to protect the plants have succeeded in killing these noxious animals. [Text] [Niamey LE SAHEL in French 23 Jul 81 p 3] 8796

CSO: 4719/231

LACK OF POLITICAL CHANGE DEPLORED

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 1-2 Aug 81 p 3

[Editorial]

[Text] It cannot be repeated too often that the left is in power in France, but it is not yet so in Reunion. We have not sufficiently pondered this fact and its consequences.

In France, change is under way. Despite the enormous weight of the heritage left by the right--the effects of which will be felt for years to come-- the situation is improving and prospects are brightening.

But if one looks at Reunion, one can see to what point the left is the great absentee excluded from government. The victory of 10 May did not bring a leftist majority of deputies to our island on 21 June.

The Dream of the Right

Contrary to what happened on Guadeloupe, for example, here we have two rightist deputies (and such deputies!) and one socialist deputy, to whom the right continues to say it owes its election. Moreover, the forces of reaction are in charge in the majority of communities and have an overwhelming majority in the assemblies: both general council and regional council.

We might add that the right still has the economic power and continues to wreak havoc in the various wheels of the administration, FR-3, etc....

Beyond all that, these rightist forces are dreaming of one thing. Revenge. They want it at any price in order to continue to impose their own policy and the defense of their own class interests.

The outbreak and the unfolding of the sugar dispute, as we showed yesterday, perfectly illustrates this situation. For the ceaseless round of regulatory changes and the artificial increase of all the prices in the stores amount to the same thing. They have amplified the scope of the fuel price increases.

Zorro

In order to get a better idea of the right's determination to take revenge, it is enough to read "Journal from the Isle of Reunion." This official spokesman for the

opposition shows that the right is launching attacks from every direction. For the right, it is a question of blaming the left, by any means including the press, for the consequences of its own policy.

--Jean Paul Virapoulle suddenly discovers the plight of the producers;

--Jean Pierre Juan discovers unemployment, poverty, the noncreation of jobs, the price increases, and today finds many faults at dock customs.

--Debre steps into it, and after having done nothing for the jobless and producers in 18 years, puts on his old threadbare flag on the statute. He attacks the communists in "DOM" [Overseas Departments], on Reunion, implicates the government there, and threatens everyone.

To hear him talk, there is a vast conspiracy against the unity of France and the Republic, which he, like Zorro, will come on the scene to foil.

In reality, his habit of distorting the facts and misrepresenting the positions of his enemies, his questioning of motives, and his alarmist rhetoric partake more of intellectual terrorism than of politics.

The Price of Compromise

He must take comfort, therefore, from the fact that the recent electoral campaign showed these tactics pay off, to the extent that certain leaders of the Socialist Federation joined in to attack the PCR. And today, it is the left which is paying the price for these compromises.

But when will the Virapoulles and Debre understand that they will not be credible, so long as they do not publicly acknowledge their own responsibility for the present predicament of Reunion and of the majority of Reunionese?

The left has only been in power for a few weeks in France, but the right has been there 30 years governing, deciding, and determining.

No Gift

The forces of the left should thus as quickly as possible and the sooner the better, assess the danger represented by all these maneuvers. They should also realize that it is not only a question of a "Reunionese" offensive. The government should know--even if it is poorly or only slightly informed of what is going on here--that it is also being watched. The left, the entire left, must thus work together in solidarity, both here and in France, with the government.

All the leftist forces here, including the overwhelming majority of socialists, should realize that the right is not going to give anything away, and that if the PCR and its main enemy, the whole front for change is also involved [sic].

The Only Way

In the face of these rightist forces that want revenge, the duty of the left is to start negotiating, to unite, and to fight; unity is essential for widening the in-

fluence of the left; it is necessary therefore to break the alliance certain socialist leaders maintain with the right, and not to leave the latter any hope.

This is the only way for the left to come to power in Reunion. If not, it will be impasse and disaster.

9516

CSO: 4719/273

PCR COMMUNIQUE ON NEED FOR CHANGE PUBLISHED

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 21 Jul 81 p 5

[Statement of the General Committee of the Reunionese Communist Party [PCR]]

[Text] Following its deliberations at Port on Sunday 19 July, the general committee of the PCR published the following statement:

The general committee of the PCR met Sunday 19 July 1981 at Port. It examined the political, economic, and social situation of Reunion after the major elections which just took place, and also the first measures taken by the government.

In the report of the secretariat of the central committee, the accent was placed on the fact that no change, nor any democracy, is possible so long as the Reunionese are unable to express themselves freely and make their choice of elected representatives free of pressure, constraints, or threats, and so long as they are deprived of impartial information.

This requires a merciless struggle against electoral fraud and the defrauders. The appeal filed by Paul Verges before the constitutional council asking for the annulment of the fraudulent election of Jean Fontaine is an important element in that struggle. But it cannot be the only one; the PCR will soon take new steps in line with it.

This also requires that radio and television news be freed from all political constraints that existed under the rightist regime, and that it be open to all who are involved in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the country's inhabitants.

In economic and social terms, the general committee of the PCR reaffirms the PCR's determination to see that the urgent problems are rapidly resolved. In connection with the current sugar season, it is pleased with the initiative taken by the secretary of state for the DOM-TOM [Overseas Departments and Territories] to invite representatives of the producers to Paris, as CGPER and SDEAR [General Confederation of Planters and Livestock Raisers and Reunion Departmental Trade Union of Farm Workers] had desired, with a view, on the one hand, to resolving without further delay the problem of producer income for the 1981 sugar season, and on the other hand to establishing a dialogue on the status to which the former rightist government had relegated the producers.

Concerning the problem of increasing the price of rice and other consumer goods, the general committee condemns the attitude of some officials who in an opposite spirit do not hesitate to raise the price of merchandise without any consideration. The general committee endorses the approach made by Reunion's elected communist officials to the government to ask it to freeze certain prices and strengthen controls, and to ask for a broad dialogue on wage-price policy on Reunion. In connection with social security for artisans, businessmen, and the self-employed, with their contributions to the system, and their affiliation with the CMRR [expansion unknown], a dialogue of the interested parties is desirable as soon as possible.

Finally, on economic, social and cultural questions, the general committee of the party notes the position of the PCR set out the day after the victory of 10 May; a quick review of the overall record of the policy followed for more than 25 years by the rightist government and, starting from there, the elaboration of a coherent development plan for Reunion.

In political terms, the general committee considers that the left is in power in France for many years, but that it is not in power yet on Reunion. It would be desirable to put it in power here, as well as in France. But to do that requires, more than ever before, Reunionese unity, and in the first place the union of the leftist and progressive forces.

The general committee endorses the position of the secretariat of the central committee of the party, which among other things calls for unity among the leftist parties of Reunion, and in the first place between the PCR and the Socialist Federation. However, it deplores the fact that certain leaders of that federation seem much closer to union with the right than to union with the left. That alliance of those socialist leaders with the right must be broken in order to create a real union of the left on Reunion, a union that is ready to struggle together to defeat the right and work in solidarity for the future of Reunion and the Reunionese.

In order to resolve urgent problems in accordance with the interests of the greatest masses of the Reunionese people, and in order to elaborate plans for the future bringing together the greatest possible consensus, as well as to achieve that larger unity needed for real change, it is important to strengthen the PCR, qualitatively and quantitatively.

From this point of view, special effort must be made by TEMOIGNAGES to increase its readership and improve its coverage of events.

The general committee of the PCR commits itself to spread the good word in support of TEMOIGNAGES this year, and to fight hard to strengthen the party's daily newspaper, to work toward a stronger and greater TEMOIGNAGES.

9516

CSO: 4719/273

EXILE OF FATHER REYNOLDS MICHEL ENDED

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 18-19 Jul 81 p 4

[Article--passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] In a communique given to us yesterday, the Christian Witness Movement of Reunion [MTCR] informed us that the decree of expulsion which the rightist [government handed down against Father Reynolds Michel on 29 December 1970 and on 6 March 1972 was abrogated by the leftist government on 20 June 1981. Father Michel was notified of the abrogation of the decree by the French Embassy in Mauritius.

This is a great victory for freedom and democracy against arbitrary power. Father Michel's former parishioners at Riviere des Galets, like all other Reunionese, welcomed this news with profound emotion and great joy.

They still recall the brutality which accompanied the arrest and abduction of their priest. It was 29 December 1970 at 0530. The rectory of Riviere des Galets was surrounded by the police forces; gendarmes were posted at the doors and windows, and some even climbed to the top of the house to occupy a more strategic position in order to watch the courtyard in case Father Michel, treated like a common criminal, were to escape. He was led straight to the Gillot airport by a very large escort without being allowed to say good-bye to his friends in the Christian Witness of Reunion group.

At 1530, Father Michel, accompanied by two policemen in civilian clothes, got aboard the airplane which took him to the island of Mauritius. The same night, the parishioners of Riviere des Galet responded to the expulsion measure by massive participation in a protest meeting. Father Michel was in their eyes a man of solidarity who witnessed his faith and his evangelical spirit in concrete actions alongside the oppressed and the exploited.

The expulsion took place in a general climate of repression, both political and religious. Communists were being hounded out of elective and every other kind of office, while the church saw an attempt to marginalize those who were demonstrating their faith in Christ and also belonged to the PCR [Reunionese Communist Party].

As was mentioned by our fraternal publication TMOIGNAGE CHRETIEN DE LA REUNION in this week's edition, it was a time when some priests refused to perform the sacraments for the families of militant communists, and when others exploited the privacy of the confessional to apply moral pressure on the eve of elections.

The expulsion of Father Michel—who, according to longtime Bishop Mgr Guibert, was guilty /of having wanted to do his duty as a priest as he saw it/—has been denounced by all the democrats in our country.

And in issue No. 5 of TCR, our comrade Paul Verges said: /"Father Michel was arrested and expelled under scandalously arbitrary circumstances, because, though an outsider, he loved this people and this country. In the face of the authorities and the rich, it requires singular courage for a Reunionese priest to live his priesthood as he lived it, in the midst of the workers and the poor. He was for us communists a living example of a Catholic, a priest standing with the workers and reflecting their aspiration, expressing an inalienable dimension of Reunionese Man in his present struggle for the dignity of each and the freedom of all."/

After his expulsion from Reunion, Father Reynolds Michel was named vicar of the parish of the Visitation of Vacoas, on his native island. In September 1971, he was invited to France, where Monseigneur Ancel of Lyon entrusted him with the responsibility for Reunionese migrants. Several months later, the minister of interior of the time, Ramond Marcellin, handed out a new decree expelling him from metropolitan territory.

Thus, Father Reynolds Michel was prohibited from carrying out the mission of solidarity to which he wanted to devote his life.

During all his years of exile, various initiatives were taken with the rightist government to try to lift the expulsion measures. With no success. As recently as 14 April 1981 the minister of the interior declared that it would be impossible "to reconsider the banishment measure affecting Father Michel, or to suspend its application."

It took the arrival of the left power in France to bring about a constructive solution. We note that several weeks ago, our party along with other democratic organizations signed a letter to the minister of interior asking him to make this kind of decision.

In an interview given this week to the newspaper TMOIGNAGE CHRETIEN DE LA REUNION, Father Michel Reynolds announced his intention to "return to Reunion to resume a ministry in communion with his bishop and the priests of the diocese, after a visit to France."

In its communique, TCR also advises that Father Michel will pay a brief visit to Reunion in early August, during the course of which his liberation will be celebrated. And TCR "calls on the Reunionese to prepare for the festival of his return."

A Statement by Father Michel

(We were able to obtain from Father Reynolds Michel a statement, after the announcement of the abrogation of the expulsion decree. We publish it in full below.)

I welcomed this news with great joy. Francois Mitterrand's victory on 10 May engendered in me the hope of finally seeing the expulsion measures taken against me in 1970 (Reunion) and 1972 (Lyon) lifted. This hope has been brought to fulfillment today after long years of struggle and suffering.

This measure, it seems to me, is an integral part of a new direction the government is taking with the idea that "France should once again become the land of the free and the champion of human rights in every domain," to use the very words of Pierre Mauroy.

This victory is not just my own; it is a victory for all my friends of Christian Witness on Reunion, my friends in Lyon, Paris, Fribourg, and the island of Mauritius. They stayed with me faithfully during these last 10 years, supporting me in my trials and struggling for a favorable solution to my problem. It is also a victory of the Reunionese people and of the poorest, who have taught me where to find true loyalty to Christ and the Gospel, and who felt themselves too to be the victims of these various measures taken against me.

This victory finally puts an end to a long exile and makes it possible now to take up my rightful place in the clergy of the diocese of Reunion where I am attached by sacerdotal ordination.

I want especially to thank the head of Christian Witness in Paris, my friend Georges Montaron, and Mr Robert Boyer of Lyon, who took the final initiatives that resulted in the happy outcome we have seen. My thanks also go to my friends in Lyon, Paris and Reunion who have been in the breaches these last few weeks in the effort to see that these initiatives came to a happy conclusion.

9516

CSO: 4719/267

BETTER UTILIZATION OF FRENCH AID URGED

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 15 Jul 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Who Favors Change?"]

[Text] Since its creation in 1959, the Reunionese Communist Party [PCR] has been analyzing the economic and social structures on Reunion and the policy of integration. The logical conclusion it drew from this analysis was that such a system could never lead our country along the path of development. To the contrary.

And, unfortunately for Reunion and for the majority of the Reunionese, this diagnosis has proven to be correct. Today, everyone acknowledges the impasse to which this kind of system has led us. We will not belabor it.

Similarly, for more than 22 years, the PCR has ceaselessly pleaded for a policy of development. Tirelessly, we have said that this is the highest priority; that we must change our political orientation in order to achieve self-centered development; that we must make use of French assistance loans in different ways, base everything on the idea of a producing economy, change people's attitudes and promote a mystique of development; that we must mobilize the Reunionese in support of such a plan to achieve dignity, equality, and freedom.

And today, what do we see? The overwhelming majority of Reunionese want development and reject comprehensive womb-to-womb welfare. Only a small coterie of people getting rich on welfare are happy with such a system and praise the era of colonies and special privilege.

What one might call "the development front" extends far beyond the Communist Party. Within the presidential majority, in the left, there is also the Socialist Party, most of whose militants are sincerely in favor of the country's development; but there are also in that same presidential majority many other "nonparty" activists who are inspired by the passion for development.

But one must look still further, beyond what we habitually call "the political class";/ we are thinking here of the various cultural and religious currents in the country, within which there are great numbers who support the development of the country and the advancement of the Reunionese. Whether we speak of our compatriots who are Tamoul, Muslim, Catholic, or others, a large number of people exist who believe change is necessary and salutary; many think there is no time for hesitation; that public assistance loans must be disbursed differently, and Reunionese given the responsibility.

Thus, for example, would Monseigneur Aubry have spoken the words he did Thursday at his press conference if there were not, even in the Church, many believers who share the aspiration for development, justice, and love of country? Even among capitalists, at least among those who are not directly tied to the dominant import-export system, there some who are determined to move toward development and direct their capital toward production.

All these currents, these organizations, these individuals, etc., constitute a major force. They are the hope of Reunion, if dialogue and negotiation are established and advanced. This is the only way to achieve a coherent development plan, re-establish economic equilibrium, and reduce social inequalities.

This perspective will inevitably lead to some political reordering, and everyone will have to reposition himself in relationship to the basic objective, development. And that is when we will see who is really for change.

9516

CSO: 4719/273

NEED TO LEARN CREOLE LINKED WITH CULTURAL IDENTITY

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 24 Jul 81 p 6

[Article by Alain Armand]

[Text] The people of Reunion will be better able to speak other languages if they master their mother tongue.

The place of Creole in the educational system has long since been a burning subject of debate, and one over which much ink has been spilt. And regardless of our personal opinion on the question, one fact should be noted: three teachers' unions--SNES [expansion unknown], SNI-PEGC [expansion unknown] and SNC [National Confederation of Colleges]--at their general assembly as well as in internal deliberations--have brought the matter up for discussion, and this has once again heated up the debate. The SNC invited Mr Baissac, a linguist, to discuss the problem of Creole and bilingualism on Reunion at its general assembly. We will not go back over the anti-Creole positions taken by a goodly number of teachers who attended that general assembly or their questions directed to Mr Baissac.

We would like to return to the letter Dr Gilbert Gerard sent to the QUOTIDIEN which appeared Wednesday under the title: "You Said Bilingualism."

In Dr Gerard's view, "to teach Creole would simply be criminal, because the Reunionese would then be locked into a cultural ghetto." "What will be their chances for social advancement...." "Will children of modest circumstances be condemned to speak only Creole?"

Excuse me, Mr Gerard, but I should tell you that I do not understand, I do not understand how a Reunionese who has used French and Creole interchangeably since childhood, who today has political responsibilities, can have such a negative attitude to his mother tongue and moreover be so unperceptive.

Mr Gerard, it is dishonest in the extreme to create the impression that all those who think about the place of Creole in the school system want to wipe out French and French culture. Linguists, researchers, and teachers think in fact that the best way to defend French is to defend...Creole. One must understand here that these people think that real advancement, under all forms of Reunionese language and culture, can only encourage the Reunionese child to acquire and improve his command over the language of widest communication, French.

Mr Gerard, you speak of a "cultural ghetto."

For myself, I would think that it is people like you who are shutting Reunion in this ghetto. To tolerate Creole in pre-school only if it is matched by French is to ignore the fact that a language is, among other things, a unique vision of the world by a human community; to agree in the name of some great civilizing principles to consider a person's culture as a blemish and to try to replace it with another that begins with a "capital C" is to deny Reunionese the right to exist as such; Mr Gerard, is it not a fact that the best way to deculturate the Reunionese is to acculturate them in such a way as to shut them in a ghetto in which one can no longer be Reunionese without being French?

So that our meaning is quite clear, Mr Gerard: to demand that we carry out our responsibilities by teaching our culture in no way means to exclude French. It is more than legitimate for the school system to reconcile the Reunionese with his identity, and that includes his mother tongue.

9516

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INFLATIONARY PRICE SPIRAL PROTESTED, WAGE INCREASE REQUESTED

Text of CGTR Telegram to DOM-TOM

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 13-14 Jul 81 p 3

[Text of telegram sent by Bruny Payet, secretary general of the General Confederation of Labor of Reunion (CGTR) to the secretary of state of overseas departments-overseas territories (DOM-TOM)]

[Text] On behalf of the workers of Reunion, we protest the excessive increase in the price of rice--basic food commodity of the people--STOP--Such a decision provokes growing general discontent following the numerous price increases that have occurred on all products and services during this period--STOP--Such a policy can only result in demands for general wage increases.

Text of CGTR Statement

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 13-14 Jul 81 p 3

[Text] The leadership of the CGTR, echoing the profound discontent which is developing among the workers, raises the strongest protest against the most recent increase in the price of rice that was announced on Monday 13 July. Coming after all the other increases during the same period on other commodities--in the first place those on basic necessities--and above all on services, especially rent and transportation, the increase in the price of rice--the basic food commodity of Reunion, can only aggravate the anger of the workers, who see their purchasing power, already insufficient, gravely impaired.

This they cannot accept.

Under these conditions, and in order to defend their purchasing power, the workers can only demand a general wage increase. [Signed] For the directorate of the CGTR, the secretary general, Bruny Payet.

Communist General Councilors

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 16 Jul 81 p 4

[Text] Here is the text of the telegram sent yesterday by the communist general councilors of Reunion to the secretary of state for DOM-TOM, Mr Henri Emmanelli:

Since 11 May, prices on Reunion have continued to climb, and the increases have affected construction, food commodities, and services as well. Stop.
The most recent increase in the price of rice, coming after the harsh increases in the price of numerous other commodities of basic necessity and widespread consumption, had created serious anxiety and strong indignation among the working classes of the country. Stop.
Urgent measures need to be taken to stop this vertiginous inflationary spiral. Stop.
The freezing of some prices and the strengthening of controls could constitute a few of these first measures, while a concerted study is made on the general price policy on Reunion. Stop.
Highest considerations. Stop.
For the communist general councilors of Reunion: Claude Hoarau, general councilor.

Effects of Expected Price Increase

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 9 Jul 81 p 8

[Text] For almost a week now--it began in the middle of last week--there has been a run on rice in the shops and supermarkets. Of course, it was the end of the month again, the time when everyone more or less stocks up on provisions, especially rice; but this was something out of the ordinary; there was so much activity that the stores have almost been stripped of all their rice; in the supermarkets, the bags were bought by the twenties, even by the fifties, and more; and since Monday a number of retail stores had run out completely.

The activity was encouraged even more by the rumors that were circulating that there would be a shortage or a price increase on rice coming.

What is really the truth? We asked both SOBORIZ [expansion unknown] and the secretariat for economic affairs of the prefecture.

No Shortage Now Or In the Future

And "there is no danger of it in the months to come."

On the one hand, officials say, Reunion has a permanent reserve stock equal to 2 months of consumption, or 8,000 tons of rice. Well, the amount of rice presently in stock is much greater than that minimum safety level (it is on the order of 13,000 tons).

On the other hand, a call for suppliers for 18,000 tons of rice has just been issued; which therefore will satisfy consumption needs until the end of the year. On this score, they say there is "no reason for alarm."

Bagging Problems

While the shopkeepers may have lacked rice in recent days, sources at SOBORIZ believe the problem is really at the local level; between SOBORIZ and those who market the rice at the retail level.

For some time now, SOBORIZ officials say, demand for bagged rice is increasing, and the company's bagging equipment is no longer able to satisfy demand. Two new pieces of equipment have been ordered; they will arrive in the next few weeks, to make it possible to respond to this constantly increasing demand.

Bigger Demand

All the same, the technical problem of bagging is not the only one, for at SOBORIZ it has been noted that there is greater demand for rice on the part of the merchants, which itself must correspond to bigger purchases made by the consumers. Thus the level of daily deliveries made by SOBORIZ, which was previously on the order of 180 tons, has nearly doubled, going in recent days up to 350 tons (which would correspond to an annual consumption on the order of 100,000 tons, or twice what it is at present).

Once Again the American Dollar

This activity is incontestably the expression of a real anxiety on the part of the consumers.

This anxiety is not without foundation, given that if the price of rice paid by the consumer is fixed, its purchase price has not remained steady, for at least one reason: that in large part it is subject to pressure from changes in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar.

In effect, all trade is transacted with the U.S. dollar as the currency of payment. Hydrocarbons--gasoline, premium, natural gas, etc.--are bought with U.S. dollars; rice is bought with U.S. dollars.

Thus when bids were accepted for an order of 18,000 tons of rice 6 months ago, the time before last, it was handled on the basis that 1 U.S. dollar equals Fr 4.50, while in the most recent bidding, it was handled on the basis that 1 U.S. dollar equals Fr 5.70.

In other words, while approximately the same number of dollars may be needed to buy the same quantity of rice, by contrast more francs are needed to buy the same number of dollars.

This is the direct consequence of the policy of the United States, particularly since the accession of Ronald Reagan as the leader of the U.S. Administration; a monetary policy which is all to the advantage of the United States but which weighs heavily on the economies of other countries; and which weighs dramatically on the underdeveloped countries; it considerably aggravates the already inhumane conditions in which hundreds of millions of starving men, women, and children find themselves, because the dollar is increasing immoderately, and they must in effect pay more for the inadequate nourishment they are already getting.

On Reunion, we are not immune from the disastrous consequences of that U.S. monetary policy.

Compensation Fund Provisioned

The situation is cause for concern: the secretariat for economic affairs does not try to hide it. But it says that the rice compensation fund has substantial funds available. Which is not the case for the compensation fund for hydrocarbons (gasoline, oil, natural gas, etc.)

The principle of this compensation fund is the following: deluxe rice is sold at substantially higher retail prices; the difference, which goes into the fund, makes it possible to modulate to some degree the price of ordinary rice.

Such is the situation at this point, and, for the secretariat of economic affairs, "there is no reason to panic." Nevertheless, developments will be followed closely and with interest.

Unjustified Price Movements

In addition to all these factors in the situation, there is another.

Since the change that occurred on 10 May, a campaign has come to light aimed at creating panic in the public: this is the jumping around of prices that took place immediately after 10 May, for example in the chain of SCORE stores, a measure which was justly condemned at the time.

But since then, instead of ceasing, it has only gotten worse. Lately we have been seeing wild fluctuations in prices: increases as ill-considered as they are unjustified.

In this respect, there are actions which the public authorities need to take urgently if we do not want--in the quite accurate words of the CGTR's communique that has just been made public--"to provoke a deterioration in the social climate on Reunion."

9516

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UNITY, VIGILANCE URGED AS SUGAR HARVEST RESUMES

Saint Denis TEMOIGNAGES in French 1-2 Aug 81 p 3

[Text] Now that the cutting has resumed everywhere, unity and vigilance are needed more than ever, in order to support and advance the cause of the small and medium growers in the dialogue which is to begin.

Now that the sugar harvest has resumed--under pressure from the growers and their trade-union organizations--CGPER, SDEAR, [General Confederation of Planters and Livestock Raisers, Reunion Departmental Trade Union of Farm Workers], the former CDJA, [expansion unknown] and is back to normal, a second stage is beginning. So, how does the situation look?

First of all, and this is extremely important, the producers have shown firstly, by the unanimity with which they observed the strike, then secondly by their rallying to the cause and their determination to force those bent on political revenge to listen to reason, that they were really determined to defend their cause. In other words, the time is gone when a small number of self-proclaimed producers tied to the sugar-mills could speak indiscriminately in their name.

So the producers have shown that they understand that things are different now and that they had no intention of being shoved aside. That is important. The direct involvement of the producers was instrumental in clarifying the situation somewhat. It showed everyone what role Jean-Paul Virapouille and Paul Ferrand were really playing. By isolating them, as they did, the producers began to clean things up and thus they created conditions for the sequel.

Now that a second stage is going to commence, the producers, by their actions and by the defeat that they inflicted on Jean-Paul Virapouille and Paul Ferrand, ensured the best possible conditions for the launching of the dialogue announced by the government, and have created better conditions in which to support and advance their cause, which in the last resort is the cause of the country.

In a memorandum of 22 July, the government announced the setting up of a working group whose mission will be to take a fresh look at the state aid to sugar and cane, as well as social assistance.

This working group is supposed to finish its work before 15 October, and its work will assist "subsequently in the payment of social assistance for the current sugar harvest."

Quite obviously, as this is emphasized in the document, independently of the 3F [as published] already accorded.

Also, there will be "during the next 3 months" an expert mission sent to study the problems encountered.

So now that the sugar harvest has resumed, a new battle is beginning and under quite new and unprecedented conditions for the producers.

The fact that by their struggle, by their unity and their determination they have created better conditions for this new stage is important. But the game is not over yet, all the same.

The recent weeks have shown that the right--those who for years and years betrayed the cause of the producers, those who still today dream of revenge--has not demobilized. No more than they have lost all their resources. The class interests--the political interests, too--which these people are defending are substantial; they are powerful levers, powerful inducements for them.

All the more reason for the producers to reinforce their unity and to be more vigilant than ever.

Their strengthened unity, their continuing mobilization, their determination will all carry decisive weight in the weeks to come.

New Forms of Action Contemplated

In the communique they made public Thursday, the leaders of Fedecanne, Jean Paul Virapouille and Paul Ferrand, announced their intention of carrying out "new forms" of union action.

Considering who these two individuals are, one might find it amusing to ask whether they intend to carry out actions of "new forms" or on "new terrain"...perhaps to side with the weather bureau or SUAD [expansion unknown] which are really their preferred field. But in truth, it is fair to ask exactly what they mean. Since in another paragraph of the same communique they state that "having in vain utilized all the legal and democratic means of dialogue with the government," they believe "that it is useless to continue a dialogue of the death with the governmental authorities...."

What then are we to deduce from these statements made by the leaders of Fedecanne? What exactly do they mean when they say that "having in vain utilized all the legal and democratic means of dialogue," they are contemplating "new forms" of union action?

These are words that should not be forgotten.

9516

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DETAILS IN 1981-1982 BUDGET OF MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES

Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 40, Jul 81 pp 54, 55

[Text] The Defense Commission met on Thursday, 30 April 1981, under the chairmanship of President Demba Koita and in the presence of Daouda Sow, minister of the Senegalese armed forces, to discuss the 1981-1982 draft budget for the Ministry of the Armed Forces of Senegal.

Opening the meeting, President Koita congratulated Minister Daouda Sow and expressed his best wishes of success in his new post as head of the armed forces department. He dealt briefly with the program of visits to garrisons which the Defense Commission will make before the end of the budget session. President Koita did not forget to congratulate the government, and the armed forces, in particular, for the perfect organization and way in which the parade of 4 April 1981 went off. In passing, he mentioned the new standard complaint of the members of the Defense Commission who want invitation passes to attend the national day parade since the privilege cannot be extended to every member of the National Assembly.

In his reply, the minister of armed forces thanked the president and the members of the commission. He repeated that the government is determined to cooperate with the assembly and his ministry with the Defense Commission. The visits to the garrisons should take place starting on 8 May 1981 and will cover the eastern zone and the Cap-Vert region. Invitations to the Fourth of April Parade are not exclusively with the sphere of the Armed Forces Ministry. However, note is taken of the commission's complaint.

The minister then went on to talk about the draft budget for his ministry and supplied the following data:

The 1981-1982 draft budget for the Ministry of Armed Forces contains expenses amounting to 16,009.204 million CFA francs which represent 12.75 percent of the operational budget. It consists of chapters 321, 322, 323 and 324 which the following provisions:

--Chapter 321 concerns personnel and amounts to 9,973.13 million CFA francs.

--Chapter 322 concerns equipment and amounts to 5,539.83 million CFA francs.

--Chapter 323 concerns maintenance and amounts to 424 million CFA francs.

--Chapter 324 concerns transportation and totals 72.244 million CFA francs, which brings it to a total of 16,009.214 million francs.

Only chapter 322 contains new items costing 200 million CFA francs. Most of this sum is intended to cover the cost of feeding the troops and supporting the training schools. As can be seen, the present draft budget is a compromise between the needs of defense and the means available to the state. If adopted, the draft budget will still allow the armed forces to fulfill their mission of defending the integrity of the national territory and to carry out their task for the training and advancement of the Senegalese youth.

The commission members, who were unanimous in congratulating the armed forces for the success of the Fourth of July parade, asked many questions and made the following remarks:

--What is the situation regarding the Senegalese forces in Lebanon?

--Is the Senegalese participation in the UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon] too much of a financial burden for the national budget?

--Why did the Senegalese Army intervene in Gambia and who paid for it?

--The Casamance region is in a strategic position. Are there enough troops in that area and do they have enough logistic means to allow them to respond, should the need arise, in view of the proximity of some turbulent states?

--The security of the rural areas in the Cap-Vert region does not seem to be sufficiently protected. In fact, one gendarmerie unit for the district of Pikine with 400,000 inhabitants does not seem adequate, particularly in view of increasing crime.

--How are the armed forces participating in the efforts made by the state to train young people and to train the cadres required for the development of the country? Among the trainees sent to the United States, are there any specialists in remote sensing?

--Regarding the coastal surveillance, only the modest sum of 2.5 million francs is being allocated to that item (chapter 322, article 2,270).

--What is happening with the project to redevelop the Thiès Air Base?

--Finally, many young people would like to join the training for reserve officers. What has been done in that direction?

Replying to these questions and remarks, the minister of armed forces had to expand on his statements about the draft budget.

"Our forces in Lebanon, in spite of the complex situation prevailing in that country, are satisfactorily carrying out their mission which is to maintain peace in the framework of the UNIFIL.

"--As for the expenses specifically incurred as a result of our participating in the UNIFIL mission, they are mostly paid by the United Nations.

"--The government is aware of the strategic position of the Casamance region which is classified as a priority area and duly garrisoned.

"--The gendarmerie unit of Thiaroye entrusted with the security of the rural zones of Cap-Vert has a normal strength. In addition to regular patrols, this unit helps protect the people and their property.

"--Regarding the surveillance of our coasts, article 2,270 of chapter 322 has been eliminated. The Secretariat of State for the Fishing Industry will provide funds to the tune of 90 million francs to enable the armed forces to carry out that difficult mission.

"--Studies dealing with the training of young people as reserve cadres of the National Army are in progress. These studies will raise the age limit to start that training.

"--The intervention of our armed forces in the Republic of Gamiba, at the request of the Gambian Government, falls within the scope of agreements signed between our two states.

"--The project to redevelop the Thies Air Base is making good progress. Agreements signed with France will enable us to carry out that important project. In fact, the future National School for Regular Army Officers (ENOA) will be located on that base.

"--There are no specialists in remote sensing among the trainees who are in the United States for the simple reason that this very modern technique requires equipment which is still beyond our reach.

"--The armed forces have always participated in the efforts of economic and social development undertaken by the government without prejudice to the general military and technical training received by every Senegalese who is called up into the armed forces and apart from the scholarships offered by friendly states or from the advantage derived from the facilities and logistic means offered by ministries specialized in education.

"Training is given at the Military Prytanee of Saint-Louis, at the National School for Non-Commissioned Officers of the Regular Army (ENSOA), at the Military Medical Service School (ESM), at the Gendarmerie Training School of Ouakam, at the Thies Polytechnical School (EPT), at the National School for Regular Army Officers (ENOA). The project to create a Pilot Training School in Saint-Louis is underway. As for training received abroad, this takes place in Bingerville, Ouagadougou, France, the United States, Canada and Morocco."

On the strength of these remarks, the Defense Commission unanimously approved the draft budget for the Ministry of Armed Forces.

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